

Serial No. 10/811,855
Amdt. Dated October 22, 2004
Reply to Office Action of July 22, 2004

Docket No. ALD-0001D2C2

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-28 are pending in the application. By the Amendment, claims 1, 5, 6, 16, 17, 19, 21, 24-26, and 28 are amended. The specification is amended for clarification purposes and/or to incorporate subject matter of related disclosures. It is believed no new matter is introduced into the application. Support for the claims can be found throughout the original specification, including the claims and the drawings originally filed. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

The Office Action, at pages 7 and 8, rejects claims 1-7, 10-13, 14, and 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 5,962,991 to Levy. The Office Action, at page 13, rejects claims 8, 9, and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Levy in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,479,159 to Kelly et al. (hereinafter “Kelly”). Because the references, individually or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest all the features of the claims, the rejections are respectfully traversed.

Amended claim 1 is directed to a lamp monitoring and control unit including features of a processing and sensing unit to acquire an output monitoring data of a lamp assembly on a pole, and to control power to said lamp assembly selectively according to local control information and remote control information; a transmit unit to wirelessly transmit said monitoring data output by the processing and sensing unit; and a receive unit, wherein said processing and sensing unit, said transmit unit, and said receive unit are arranged on said pole. By way of a non-limiting example, Figure 7 shows a lamp monitoring and control unit 310 according to an embodiment of the present invention, in which a light sensor 518 having a photosensor 518a

and associated light sensor circuitry 518b is provided. The lamp monitoring and control unit 310 also includes microprocessor circuitry 412a configured to receive and process input signals and output control signals. The microprocessor circuitry 412a is configured to receive a light sensing signal from the light sensor 518. Based upon the value of the light sensing signal, the microprocessor circuitry 412a is configured to alternatively or additionally execute software to output a relay control signal to a relay 412b which switches a switched power line 280c to a hot power line 280a. Accordingly, the processing and sensing unit is configured to control power to the lamp assembly selectively according to local control information and remote control information.

On the contrary, Levy relates to an outdoor lighting control system in which a controller module 27 housed in a lamp pole 10 is linked to a control room 18 through power lines 14, 22 and a lighting cabinet 16. (Figure 1 of Levy). The control module 27 includes a LON chip 32 that operates the associated lamps 12 through a lamp relay 28, as well as supplies power to an adjacent lamp pole through a switched power relay 30, in accordance with commands received by the control module 27 via the incoming power lines 14. (Figure 3 and column 3, lines 31-59).

In particular, Levy provides that as the LON chip 32 operates the switched power relay 30 to deliver voltage to an adjacent pole, it also enables an overcurrent interrupt, such that if the current flow to the adjacent pole as sensed by a current sensor 44 is an overcurrent, the LON chip will stop the operation of the switched power relay 30 so that power flow to the adjacent pole is interrupted. A fault (alarm) signal is sent to the control room to log the fault. Column 6,

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lines 42-48. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the current sensor 44 does not control power to the lamps 12 on the pole 10 in which the control module 27 is housed.

Levy provides that the control module 27 includes various switches 34 that are “operated by service personnel at time of component replacement for inputting to the LON chip 32 signals to indicate replacement of various components, such as the lamp, or lamps, 12, the ballast, and the capacitor.” Column 3, lines 32-36 (emphasis added). Levy further provides that the switches 34, as shown in Figures 3-5, are connected to the LON chip 32 for activation “when the corresponding component (lamp, ballast, capacitor) is replaced by a new one. This information is communicated to the control room to begin logging new data for the new part or parts.” Column 4, lines 64-67. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the switches 34 of Levy are merely indicators that are not configured to control power to the lamps 12.

Applicants note that the Office Action, at page 13, indicates that Levy, at col. 1, lines 55-62, states that “communication/control is possible via any suitable way.” However, it is respectfully submitted that Levy, in the cited portion or elsewhere, neither expressly nor impliedly makes such a disclosure. Thus, Levy does not disclose or suggest at least a processing and sensing unit to control power to the lamp assembly selectively according to local control information and remote control information. It is respectfully submitted that Kelly also fails to disclose or suggest the aforementioned undisclosed features of Levy or their claimed combination. For example, Kelly fails to disclose or suggest at least features of a transmit unit to

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wirelessly transmit the monitoring data output by the processing and sensing unit. Thus, claim 1 defines patentable subject matter.

For at least the above reasons, claim 1 is allowable. Claims 2-15 ultimately depend from claim 1, and thus are allowable for at least the same reasons, as well the additional patentable features recited therein and the combinations thereof. Withdrawal of the rejections is thus respectfully requested.

The Office Action, at page 8, rejects claims 16, 17, 19, and 21-28 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 5,748,104 to Argyroudis et al. (hereinafter “Argyroudis”). The Office Action, at page 13, rejects claims 18 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Argyroudis in view of Kelly. Because the references, individually or in combination, fail to disclose all of the features of the claims, the rejections are respectfully traversed.

Amended independent claim 16 is directed to a method for communicating operating information related to a plurality of distributed devices, that includes wirelessly transmitting monitoring data; receiving centralized control information based on said monitoring data; and applying internal control information and centralized control information selectively to control power to the associated distributed device. Amended independent claim 24 includes similar features in a varying scope. On the contrary, Argyroudis relates to a wireless remote telemetry system 100 for remotely monitoring, controlling, or servicing a remote station. In particular, Argyroudis presents a remote metering unit 102 that communicates reporting messages to a respective remote communication unit such as a home base unit (HBU) 122, which in turn

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communicates with a central controller 116. The HBU 122 can interface with a household appliance 136, such that a control message can be sent from the central controller 116 to turn off the appliance 136. Accordingly, Argyroudis does not disclose or suggest applying internal control information and centralized control information selectively to control power to the associated distributed device. It is respectfully submitted that Kelly also fails to disclose or suggest the aforementioned undisclosed features of Argyroudis or their claimed combination. For example, Kelly fails to disclose or suggest at least features of wirelessly transmitting the monitoring data. . Thus, claim 16 defines patentable subject matter.

For at least the above reasons, claim 16 is allowable. Claims 17-23 ultimately depend from claim 16, and thus are allowable for at least the same reasons, as well the additional patentable features recited therein and the combinations thereof. For at least reasons similar to claim 16, independent claim 24 is allowable. Claims 25-28 ultimately depend from claim 24, and thus are allowable for at least the same reasons, as well the additional patentable features recited therein and the combinations thereof. Withdrawal of the rejections is thus respectfully requested.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney, Garth D. Richmond, at the telephone number listed below. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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